

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO ESTABLISH 10-YEAR TERM  
FOR TSA ADMINISTRATOR

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to establish a 10-year term of office for any individual appointed to serve as the administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, akin to the appointment process for the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI.

The failed Christmas Day bombing of a U.S. airliner points to the need for strong, capable leadership at TSA. It is essential that the agency be independent of political influence and focus on its core mission: to protect "the Nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce." Given the continued threat from al Qaeda to U.S. and international aviation, it is essential that the TSA administrator has bipartisan support.

I believe a 10-year term for the administrator of TSA will help provide the agency with the qualified, long-term and independent leadership it needs at this time. Over the last 9 years since TSA's creation following 9/11, TSA has had six administrators—averaging terms of just 1.5 years. This is hardly the stable and committed leadership that the agency should have, given its critical role in ensuring the safety of our citizens and aviation infrastructure. It simply does not make sense for the position to change hands with each new administration or even sooner.

This bill further strengthens our Nation's homeland by ensuring stable leadership at the Department of Homeland Security and freeing that the TSA administrator to assure agency professionalism over political fidelity. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNITION FOR CHIEF ROBERT  
W. GILBERT, U.S. BORDER PATROL

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert W. Gilbert, who is leaving his position as Chief Patrol Agent of the United States Border Patrol Tucson Sector to become the Department of Homeland Security Attaché in Mexico.

As the representative of one of only ten congressional districts on the U.S.-Mexico border, I have worked closely with Chief Gilbert in the ongoing effort to secure our border. Chief Gilbert has been relentless in his pursuit of this goal, and for that, every American owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

During his time in Tucson, Chief Gilbert never lost sight of the fact that our border is more than a boundary separating two nations. He knows that our border with Mexico is a conduit for trade through which hundreds of millions of dollars of vital goods and services flow each year. He is also acutely aware of the negative impact on local residents, ranch-

ers and businesses caused by the criminal cartels that smuggle people and drugs across the border and into our communities.

Chief Gilbert followed his father into the Border Patrol and has carried out assignments in San Diego, El Paso and on the Canadian border. In March 2007, he was named Chief Patrol Agent of the Tucson Sector, the Nation's largest and most active border region.

Chief Gilbert supervises more than 3,200 agents who patrol 262 miles of international border. The agents who work for him account for the highest number of drug seizures and illegal immigrant apprehensions in the Nation. Chief Gilbert has called the Tucson Sector "ground zero for the Border Patrol." When he was asked whether being assigned to such a busy part of the border was a reward or a punishment, Chief Gilbert called his posting "an honor." It has been no less an honor for those of us who have had the opportunity to work with him.

Representing the Eighth Congressional District in Southeastern Arizona, I have had the privilege of witnessing first-hand the Border Patrol's important work. It has been a highlight of my time in Congress to meet the men and women of the Tucson Sector of the Border Patrol who serve in one of the most challenging and rugged regions in our country.

Under Chief Gilbert's exceptional leadership, great progress has been achieved in making our border more secure. In just the first three months of fiscal year 2010, agents in the Tucson Sector arrested 51,111 people and seized 270,418 pounds of marijuana. In fiscal year 2009, agents in the Tucson Sector seized an all-time national record of more than 1.2 million pounds of marijuana.

It is clear on many levels that Chief Gilbert and the men and women under his command are gaining control of the most porous area of our border with Mexico.

In addition to implementing effective new strategies to deal with the high volume of drug and human smuggling, Chief Gilbert and his team have been most responsive to my inquiries on behalf of constituents and they have reached out to build positive relationships with local residents, ranchers and business owners. The Chief established regular meetings of community stakeholders which have resulted in stronger partnerships between the Border Patrol and the citizens who live along the border. He has gone to great lengths to establish better understanding and communications with the community including his mule ride along the border with area ranchers to directly inspect the effects that smuggling has had on their land and operations.

In a 2009 interview with Linda Valdez, a columnist with the Arizona Republic, Chief Gilbert talked about the enthusiasm he has for his job. "If you can't get excited about defending the United States of America, you don't have a pulse," he said.

Each day, the agents supervised by Chief Gilbert confront armed smugglers, harsh desert terrain and weather extremes to keep us safe. Each day, they and Chief Gilbert illustrate what it means to be dedicated to duty and to country.

While enormous credit rightfully goes to Chief Gilbert for Border Patrol successes since he arrived on the job, we also recognize the great sacrifices that have been made by his family. His wife Lia and children Matthew and Sophia have been there to support the

Chief through his many long days and week-ends at work. The strength of his family has played a vital role in sustaining the Chief in his tireless service to the Nation. We thank them for all they have done for him and, through him, for all of us.

On behalf of the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District, I am proud to give the highest commendation to Chief Robert W. Gilbert for a job very well done. This man is a true patriot, who has served our region and the Nation with selflessness, integrity and honor.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF  
LASHAWN Y. WARREN

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and productive members of the Judiciary Committee staff for her service to the House, LaShawn Warren. For 2½ years, LaShawn served as Oversight Counsel for the Committee on the Judiciary.

LaShawn graduated magna cum laude from Savannah State College in Savannah, Georgia. She earned her law degree from Howard University, where she served as co-editor-in-chief of the Social Justice Law Review and rose to the leadership ranks of many of the law school's societies and associations. In addition to her law degree, she earned a certificate in non-profit management from Georgetown University's Center for Professional Development.

Prior to joining the staff of the Judiciary Committee, LaShawn served as Legislative Counsel for Civil Rights for the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU. As Legislative Counsel, she prepared congressional testimony for the U.S. Congress and the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, and lobbied Members of Congress, UNHRC members, and their respective staffs on voting rights, education equity, racial profiling, employment, housing, domestic violence policy, welfare reform, privacy, international human rights, and civil rights enforcement. She chaired advocacy and legislative coalitions, worked with national and local media, and served as the lead strategist for the civil rights community's successful effort to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006. Prior to her tenure at the ACLU, she served as a legislative analyst for the Seattle City Council and as an Assistant Attorney General for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

During her time with the Judiciary Committee, LaShawn led the Congress' investigation into the enforcement of Federal civil rights laws, hiring practices, and resource management issues in the Civil Rights Division, CRT, of the Department of Justice. By the end of the 110th Congress, her work had exposed massive politicization of the CRT's operations, including its hiring practices and case-prosecution decisions. Cleaning up that division—so central to the equal rights of all Americans—is a great legacy of LaShawn's work at the Committee. She additionally served as the Committee's lead counsel on voting issues and conducted investigative and legislative

work related to voting, employment, housing, predatory lending, bankruptcy, civil rights and criminal law enforcement, international law compliance, and civil rights in immigration policy. She authored large portions of the Committee staff's report "Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the Presidency of George W. Bush" and supervised the drafting and editing of the Committee's bipartisan amici brief in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Eric H. Holder* (2009).

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank LaShawn for her service and for her unwavering commitment to protecting and advancing civil rights and liberties for all Americans. We are losing a dear colleague, mentor, and friend—her generosity, optimism, professionalism, and warmth shall be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

HONORING MR. ROD MORGAN ON BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rod Morgan, a remarkable jurist from Indiana's 7th Congressional District, who recently became the first African American to serve as president of the Indiana State Bar Association. I applaud Mr. Morgan for this monumental achievement.

Currently a partner at Bingham McHale LLP in Indianapolis, Mr. Rod Morgan's legal career has been vast and varied. His career has touched upon nearly every aspect of jurisprudence from serving as an Army Judge Advocate General, to acting as a legal advisor to numerous military and political leaders, to teaching law and writing scholarly papers. Mr. Morgan is also an active member of the community, serving on numerous boards and associations, recently serving as president of the Indianapolis Black Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Partnership for Affordable Housing. His election as president of the Indiana State Bar Association marks yet another milestone in an exemplary career.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Rod Morgan and wishing him the best of luck in his latest endeavor.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ELIZABETH JOYCE COSSER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Elizabeth Joyce Cosser, lovingly known as "Nan" treasured grandmother of my wife, Elizabeth, and dearest mother and matriarch.

Mrs. Cosser was born in 1923 and spent her childhood in the beautiful, rolling farmlands of Nottinghamshire and later South Downs,

England. Nan's unyielding love for the natural world, great joy of learning, deep commitment to family and sense of service to others was deeply rooted in her childhood. Moreover, Nan was raised to believe that girls were just as worthy as boys, and her fierce independence, courage and outspokenness shone throughout her life—and began during an era when women's rights and opportunities were still non-existent. A trailblazer in so many ways—Nan was a feminist and environmentalist before those words existed in the world's consciousness.

As a young woman, Nan ventured out on her own, eventually leaving home to become a nurse. During WWII, Nan's family homestead, Blackcap Farm, was destroyed by Canadian Troops who leveled the countryside with rounds and mortars during training maneuvers. At that same time, Nan worked as a nurse, tending to wounded soldiers amidst air raids and heaving bombing, in Brighton and the East End. After the war, Nan continued her chosen vocation of nursing, specializing in delivering babies. She became a community midwife, and delivered 1,265 babies, including Elizabeth, her namesake and granddaughter.

Nan coveted nature, and was on the forefront of the green movement and animal rights causes. In her spare time, Nan planted trees—thousands of trees. To this day, thick groves of chestnut, oak, buckeye and hazelnut trees grow along the country paths in Belhus Woods in Essex—all planted by Nan.

Nan taught by example, instilling in her children and grandchild a true love and respect for the earth and for each other. Beyond her love of gardening, Nan spent time with family on numerous outdoor adventures. She guided her grandchildren through the countryside, gathering berries which she later transformed into pies, jams, wine and even vodka. Her artistic talents and interests were extensive and varied; Nan excelled at painting, embroidery, knitting and pottery, and her adventurous spirit led her to journey to places around the world—researching the history of the culture wherever she went.

Nan combined her love of history and art, creating beautiful works depicting momentous eras and individuals in world history. Nan's keen interest in England's royal lineage led her to embark on an extensive project in which she researched every king and queen in England, dating back 1,000 years. Her research then inspired her to create an incredible series of pottery busts reflecting, in detail, the likeness and aura of royalty dating back one thousand years!

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Elizabeth Joyce "Nan" Cosser, whose kind and generous heart drew others to her. Nan's strength, integrity, and love for the world and its inhabitants, will forever live within the hearts of all us who knew and loved her well, and will forever reflect from the branches and leaves of the towering oak and chestnut trees along the English countryside—forever connecting us all in the cycle of life.

TOWN HALL BY MAIL SURVEY RESULTS FOR FLORIDA'S 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Our nation is faced with more major issues, and is more divided over how we should handle those issues, than at any time I have served in Congress.

These issues include matters of national security, financial security, economic security, and the future of our health care system. Last November, I asked residents of the 10th Congressional District I have the privilege to represent to share their thoughts with me on these and many other pressing issues. To date, more than 31,500 have responded to my survey which included 26 questions on a wide range of legislative matters. In addition, almost half of those who responded provided some very helpful additional comments about other matters of interest to them. In order to certify the accuracy of the results, I had an outside firm tabulate the surveys before returning them to me to review the comments.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues the complete results of my Town Hall by Mail survey. As we return for the Second Session of this 111th Congress and begin debate on these many difficult issues, I think they will find these results of special interest.

CONGRESSMAN BILL YOUNG TOWN HALL BY MAIL

- Which of the following do you feel to be the most pressing federal issue?  
Federal Deficit, 17.33%  
Job Creation, 16.02%  
A Growing Federal Government, 15.14%  
Health Care, 14.52%  
National Security, 11.21%  
Energy Independence, 8.83%  
Immigration, 7.79%  
Other, 3.61%  
No Response, 2.86%  
Housing, 2.69%
- Are you satisfied with your current health care coverage?  
Yes, 73.09%  
No, 20.40%  
Not currently covered, 4.77%  
No Response, 1.73%
- From what you have read about the pending health care legislation before Congress, do you believe this legislation would improve the quality of your health care coverage?  
Yes, 15.85%  
No, 70.71%  
Unsure, 11.72%  
No Response, 1.71%
- From what you know about the health care reform legislation pending before Congress, would you support or oppose this legislation?  
Support, 22.42%  
Oppose, 65.81%  
Unsure, 10.22%  
No Response, 1.55%
- Should health care reform include a government-run public option?  
Yes, 28.49%  
No, 60.44%  
Unsure, 8.88%  
No Response, 2.19%
- Do you believe that any health care reform legislation should specifically prohibit